

Program Notice

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11-06-96

MINIMUM SIZE FOR RAIL INSPECTIONS UNDER THE CUSUM PLAN

1. PURPOSE

This notice establishes a two subplot minimum when the CuSum inspection plan is requested for rail shipments.

2. BACKGROUND

The CuSum inspection plan is a statistics-based, online acceptance sampling plan originally developed for the inspection and weighing of bulk export grain as it moves out of an export elevator and aboard ship. The plan's concept was also extended to include unit trains and LASH barges. The basis of the plan requires acceptance or rejection of reasonably uniform, specified amounts of grain presented for inspection in a systematic, continual sampling process.

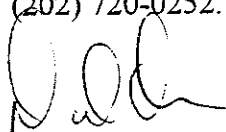
A recent survey of rail shipments utilizing the CuSum inspection plan indicates train sizes ranged from 94 cars to a low of 2 cars. While relatively small rail shipments do not constitute a significant loading history upon which to base the use of the CuSum plan tolerances, the requirement that the final grade be within contract specification limits the degree of flexibility of the plan. Therefore, to be consistent with other type carriers, there is a need to establish a minimum sampling size for unit trains inspected under the CuSum plan.

3. POLICY

Railcars inspected on the basis of the CuSum plan must contain a minimum of two sublots. Sublots may consist of one car to five cars (maximum). Starting values are applied to the first subplot in the lot.

4. QUESTIONS

If you have any questions, please contact the Standards and Procedures Branch at (202) 720-0252.



David M. Orr, Acting Director
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